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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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Hong Kong: The police continue to be the prime object of terrorist violence.

The police are handicapped in their efforts to control the situation because of the difficulty in identifying perpetrators of the hit-and-run bombings, which include more powerful explosives. Although the Communist press hails the terrorism of the militant Communists, there has been no indication that the more moderate Communist leaders have abandoned their long-term strategy of undermining colonial authority primarily through political action.

For its part, Peking apparently wishes to prevent further damage to its economic interests in the colony. The Chinese probably hope to create the impression of "business-as-usual" at the Canton Trade Fair, which is scheduled to open on 15 November.

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Panama: Maneuvering for the presidential nomination within President Robles' divided coalition may be nearing a climax.

In a meeting with leaders of the four coalition parties that oppose his nomination of Finance Minister Samudio to head the government ticket in the election next May, President Robles suggested Comptroller General Olmedo Rosas--an appointed official without strong political backing--as a compromise candidate. This shift in attitude by Robles probably was influenced by the defection of an influential segment of Samudio's party as well as by the imminence of the 12 November deadline for public officials to resign if they wish to run for the presidency.

In the process Robles has incurred the wrath of National Guard Commandant Bolivar Vallarino who expected he might be the compromise candidate.

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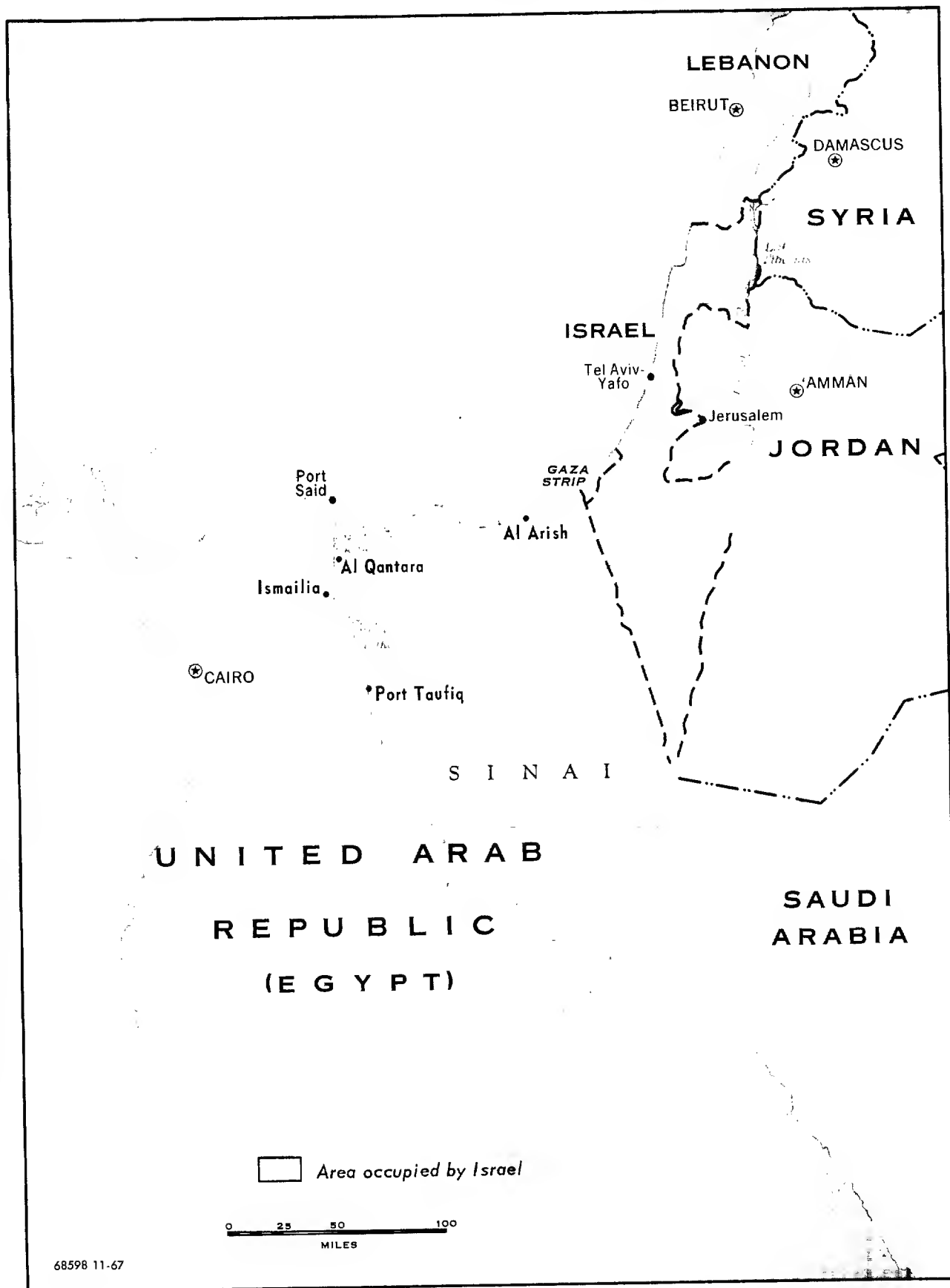
Although Robles has long opposed Vallarino's nomination, there are indications that he is prepared to endorse him as a last resort if Rosas is rejected.

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11 Nov 67 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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NOTES

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Israel-Egypt: Israeli forces along the Suez Canal may be prepared to hold their present positions indefinitely, according to the US Defense attachés who visited the area on 5-6 November. Israeli positions along the canal are underground and hardened with extensive revetments and other bulldozed defenses. They have also constructed water pipelines to Port Taufiq and Al Qantara to supplement the already existing pipeline from Al Arish to Ismailia. Thus, it would appear that Israel intends to stay on the canal at least until the Arabs agree to negotiate.

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Japan: Police officials are taking precautions in anticipation of disturbances by leftist elements when Prime Minister Sato leaves Tokyo airport for the US on 12 November and probably will be able to handle the situation. Student riots during an attempt to block Sato's departure on his recent trip to Southeast Asia resulted in one death. Critical press reaction and the police crackdown after that incident could dampen student enthusiasm this time.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 9 November 1967 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 22-1-67, "France: The Future of Gaullism,"

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